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# AN ADDRESS

Delivered at the Opening of Lane Hospital, January 2, 1895.

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## LANE HOSPITAL.

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On January 2, 1895, Lane Hospital was formally opened for the reception and treatment of patients. The event was commemorated by an address, which appears elsewhere, and also by the performance of a surgical operation as the inaugural act in the opening of this institution. By this effusion of blood, analogous to the act of the ancient augur, and in the character of his address, the donor has conformed to the custom of antiquity, to the models and literature of which he has a reverent attachment.

It was originally intended that the institution should bear the name of PAULINE LANE HOSPITAL; in fact, for some months this name stood traced on the block of granite, which now spans the vestibule of the building. This honor, it is clear, would not have been inappropriately bestowed, when it is stated, that nearly all of the excellence to be found in the interior arrangement of the building is due to the care and watchful supervision of this lady; a task which has continued during the last three years. With renunciation of any claim to which her services individually entitled her, MRS. LANE has preferred that the hospital bear the name which is mutually shared by herself and husband.

The hospital is situated at the corner of Clay and Webster streets; it has a front of 140 feet and a depth of 130 feet; it is adjacent to Cooper Medical College, and has been erected by DR. LANE at a cost of \$160,000, and presented to the corporation of Cooper Medical College. The aggregate of the gifts of lands and buildings presented to the College by DR. LANE amounts to nearly a half million of dollars.

It should be stated that the land on which the hospital is built, was purchased at a cost of \$28,000 by CAPTAIN JAMES M. McDONALD, and presented to the corporation as a site for the hospital. This generous benefactor has also given \$25,000 for the further support of the hospital. COL. CLAUD SPRECKELS has also given \$25,000 for the same purpose. MR. ANDREW B. MCCREERY has given \$6,000 for the maintenance of a bed in the hospital. The Faculty of Cooper College have donated from their treasury \$20,000 for furnishing and equipping the institution for its future work. For some time, fees will be charged for the admission of patients; it is,

however, expected that donations will finally reach such an amount, that the worthy poor can receive gratuitous attention.

The building is of brick, faced with granite; and a system of heating and ventilation, perfect in all its details, has been provided at great cost. Besides the arrangements for ventilation, purity of air is further insured by the position of the kitchen, which is placed in the upper part of the building, on a story above all the patients. There are one hundred beds for patients, for each of which provision has been made for a space of air ranging from 1,700 to 2,000 cubic feet.

The medical and surgical service will be rendered by the Faculty of Cooper Medical College; yet the hospital will be open to all regular physicians, who may desire to place and to attend their patients there. Physicians sending patients to the hospital will be permitted to charge such fees as may have been agreed upon between them and their patients.

With the advantages and facilities, which are here hastily and briefly enumerated, there is no doubt, that for Lane Hospital there is a successful future; and that in this case, as in that of Cooper College, the founder and donors' hopes will be abundantly realized.  
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By LEVI C. LANE, M. D., Professor of Surgery, Cooper Medical College, San Francisco, Cal.

The ancient Roman and the ancient Greek when on the eve of an important undertaking, began the work by the consultation of an oracle and by the effusion of blood on the altar: a sacrifice that was made to conciliate the Genius of good Fortune. Sometimes in place of the rude and repulsive act of the burnt offering, there was substituted some other rite of more agreeable nature. This was often an address, in which, for the urgent prosecution of the proposed undertaking and for animating inspiration of its actors, the speaker marshaled in the brilliant periods of sublime eloquence the great and admirable examples of the past.

Greek literature, which, through its innate excellence, has outlived the destructive agencies of time, fashion, change and revolution, contains some of the best examples of such eloquence. The

addresses of Isocrates, stimulating to noble action, remain as imperishable parts of Grecian literature, in the same marked and prominent outline, as in the Athenian landscape stands forth the Acropolis crowned with the temple of Theseus and the immaculate Parthenon, What could more deeply fire the heart and urge on to determined action than the words of Isocrates addressed to the Lacedæmonians, when he exclaims: "Think how illustrious it is to exchange this mortal and fragile body for deathless renown; and with the few years of life which yet remain to us to purchase that celebrity which will endure through the ages."

In opening the way for peace, after a long period of domestic strife and civil war, what could touch the Roman heart more deeply than the last words of Otho, who to win the contest was on the eve of sacrificing himself, when he said: "I want neither revenge nor commiseration; some may have held the empire longer, but it will be said of no one that he has left it with more courage; let this struggle depart with me; even as though you had perished for me, but be ye still survivors." These words of self-renunciation, it may be remarked in passing, have found occasional illustration in the patriot who died before the eyes of the world, and quite as often have they found illustration in the physician who died in the camp of disease, not only unseen, but diligently forsaken by the world.

The Roman consul celebrated his entrance into office by a studied oration. A remarkable oration of this kind is that of Pliny the younger, which is devoted in the main to a panegyric of the character and prominent events in the life of Trajan, then emperor of Rome. In this address, efflorescent with painted phrase, the martial exploits of the Roman chieftain are extolled; the subjugation of nations and the extension of Roman power are portrayed by a partial pen. The character of Trajan, as delineated by his eulogist, besides furnishing to the soldier constant incentive to courage and action, reveals, also, an element which delights the son of medicine, as shown in Trajan's care for the sick and wounded. "O, Trajan, what comfort didst thou bring to the weary and what assistance to the sick! It was thy custom to never enter thy tent until thou hadst visited and surveyed those of thy fellow soldiers'; nor didst thou ever rest until all others had been provided for." And a Greek historian says that Trajan actually treated the wounded, and that when material for dressings was exhausted, he took off his own clothing and cut it into bandages.

The foregoing citations from the annals of antiquity show that the ancients, in entering on an important enterprise, as war against



an enemy, or other matter of public moment, inaugurated the undertaking by an address in a public assemblage. In these orations the civilian, the statesman and the soldier find stirring incentive to action; and the physician finds in them ample instruction for his work of self-sacrifice; yet, in his work as minister for the relief of pain, he seeks in vain there for instruction, guidance and encouraging inspiration. Patience, endurance, tireless action, unsparing retribution for wrong done and contest to victory or death were the doctrines of the bard, seer and orator of olden times. The epitome of character, which commanded the greatest admiration when Rome ruled the world, is contained in the line, *Impiger, iracundus, inexorabilis, acer*, which anglicized is "Tireless, wrathful, inexorable, harsh." Excepting the quality of tireless, how remote are these characteristics from those of him whose mission it is to alleviate the sick and afflicted; for the patience, mercy and compassion of the physician have no place in the harsh picture of the model soldier depicted in the Horatian line.

In strong contrast with these barbarous traits, are those which the physician should have, as one learns from the counsel which Hippocrates gives the medical man when he enters the sick man's chamber. "On entering his room be careful in your manner of sitting; be reserved; appear in proper attire; be serious, and use brevity in speech; have cool self-command, which cannot be disturbed; be diligent and industrious in the presence of the patient; use care; if the patient objects to what is being done for him, listen to him and answer his objections properly; never lose your self-possession in the presence of an unexpected act or contingency; be prompt to meet and repress any disturbing emergency; always have a good will to do that which is to be done. And above all things, remember that nothing is to be omitted that can be of benefit to the patient." And further, the physician is to act with calmness and address, and infuse into the patient serenity and cheerfulness. Sometimes the patient should be reproved with firmness and severity; and at another time he should be consoled by kindness and careful attention.

These precepts, and the character which the physician should have as indicated by them, though many centuries old, embrace, in the main, the characteristics which the medical men of to-day should have. Summarized, these traits are a love of work, patient attention to details, ability to control one's self, as well as the whims and freaks of the patient, an exhaustless fund of the sunlight of cheerfulness to dissipate the clouds of melancholy which often surround the patient, and a flexibility to meet and provide for exigency and emergency.



Hippocrates says that medical art consists of, or is concerned with three things, viz: the patient, his malady, and the physician. And to-day, if our art be thoughtfully studied, these things are its prime components. Each patient is an isolated entity, and though he is akin to others, yet he has his own distinctive individuality—individuality which is shapen by his physique, his mentality, his habits, and his heredity. Each of these is to be a matter of study, and must be taken fully into account in the successful accomplishment of medical art. The disease also, though akin to others and susceptible of being grouped with them in a common class, has a special character of its own which marks it off from the members of its own kindred. These individual differences are so great that not unfrequently they confuse and mislead him whose powers of discrimination have not been trained and perfected by experience. The third constituent mentioned is the physician himself, into whose charge the sick man is committed, and whose province it is to study the patient and his disease. That medical art may have its highest and best accomplishment this third element must have the highest endowments which a theoretical, didactical, and practical training can impart.

When the physician is thus moulded and informed, or as the logician would say, is fully formed in extension and intention, then medical art will reach that excellence by which it was illustrated in the character of a Sydenham, a Frerichs, a Trousseau, or now is seen in an Osler. In the institution of which we are opening the doors to the sick world, to-day, I permit myself to hope and predict that some names equal in greatness to those mentioned will appear and give to the healing art its noblest consummation. As further guidance for the best care of the sick, Hippocrates says that the physician should have as his aids students of medicine. Such student should be placed as a watch over the patient, and directed to see that the latter does not take his medicine at improper hours; and thus watched the medicine will accomplish its purpose. The student should already possess some knowledge of the action of remedies; knowledge which will enable him to meet an emergency which may supervene during the absence of his superior. The student should also be entrusted with the nourishment of the patient, and should see that this is taken in proper amounts and at proper times. The student must also note everything that occurs, and report the same to the physician, so that the latter may be ignorant of nothing that is transpiring. Nothing should be committed to attendants who are ignorant of such duty. The care of the sick should be carried out attentively and knowingly; thus done, no blame will attach to ill

success; and if the issue be fortunate, the event will be crowned with honor.

Thus far the art of medicine, or that which is contingent to it, has mainly been considered; but medicine has another important domain, and that is its science. Medical art is chiefly concerned with the cure of disease; instruments, apparatus, medicines, and all curative agencies. On the other hand, medical science searches for the cause of disease; it studies the abnormal combination of normal cells; the appearance of the latter at unusual times and unusual places. And to do this work well, this science must know equally well the tissues both in their sound and unsound states. In its development this science has proceeded by the pathway of analysis. Thus Bichat studying the structures by dissection found that they can be reduced again to a few simple membranes and tissues. These tissues are resolvable into cells of various forms and diverse groupings. This was believed to be the inmost recess of life into which the fiend of disease, unseen and of unknown form, penetrated and threw confusion into the beauteous arrangement which these cells have in health. Science, with tireless foot and unsleeping eye, has pursued this fiend of disease and detected him in the infinitely minute form of the pathogenetic microphyte.

For centuries this infinitesimal agent in the diseased organism ran riot, unseen, unsuspected, unknown. But science grasped a little beam of light, bent this into a key which opened this chamber in which the germ of disease has hidden himself, and solved the enigma. This solution has given immortality to the name of Robert Koch. Koch, like Columbus, has discovered a new world. This new world, like our own America four centuries ago, has opened a boundless field of undeveloped resources in which medical science and medical art may labor side by side. Here science is discovering and indicating the means by which human disease may be cured, and, what is yet more important, the way is thus being learned by which menacing disease may be averted. The researches of medical science are now promising the human race immunity against many diseases. In this field scores of diligent hands are at work, and from what has already been done there is promise of discoveries which will greatly change the methods of the practice of medicine. It is probable that we will inoculate against and prevent, or render mild and harmless, all contagions and infectious diseases.

The Latin language was a rich store-house, from which we have borrowed many words. The English, opulent in words of concrete nature, and forcibly expressive as far as the things of material nature

are concerned, in its early growth, had few words of abstract character; and among the many which it derived from the Roman tongue, one which especially interests us here, is "immunity." In the Latin we find the word "immunitas," which meant an exemption from duties, taxes, and other obligations; it was limited to this meaning among the Romans; and also with us it had no wider range of significance until the last few years. How little did the Roman dream when he was coining this word that, in its transit from tongue to tongue, it would pass to remote centuries and would then represent the method by which man would elude the grasp of the great taxer—Disease, and stay the entrance of his still greater enemy—Death.

The wards in this hospital in which the sick and afflicted will seek for relief will furnish countless opportunities for the solution of these great problems which remain yet unsolved, or for the further verification of what is yet but partially verified. And in this scientific work nothing will contribute more to successful result than painstaking accuracy; there must be accuracy in observing morbid phenomena, and accurate record made of them; and at length from such a fund of facts truthful deductions can be drawn. Such a stony, tiresome path was long trodden by Koch and Pasteur before they received their crowns from the Genius of discovery.

An error sometimes committed by the scientific explorer is, that he often mistakes the unreal for the real; and impelled by his desire for renown, he announces a discovery, which subsequent investigation disproves. An example of this was Richardson's announcement of the cause of the coagulation of the blood. Richardson received a prize for what yet remains to be solved. A better example to follow is that of Edward Jenner, who withheld from the world his discovery of vaccination for nearly seventeen years; it was only after proof and counter-proof, and repeated verification that he ventured to announce it. It is sincerely to be hoped that nothing will be announced as discovered within these walls, which has not thus been proven and incontrovertibly established.

Among the duties of the interne, an important one is to make a careful record of the cases treated here. Such record does two things; the chief one is, that it insures careful work; for thus the work is committed to the pages of history, where it will be legible to many eyes. He will work the best and with the fewest faults, who knows that each act will be delivered to open, unchanging record. A second purpose of such record is, that it gathers facts, which become an addition to the general fund of medical knowledge.

The record kept may be brief, or it may be in elaborate detail. If the cases be those of usual occurrence, containing only what has often been observed, then the history made of them should be brief; and such record in epitomized form becomes a magazine, whence facts can be taken and tabulated into statistical computation. Many modern writers decry statistics, to my mind very wrongly; since the statistical is the equivalent of the inductive method of reasoning, which can be compared to a ladder of which each round is a fact similar to its fellows, and by the aid of which one ascends to a general truth. If error mar the conclusion, this can always be traced to, and found in the faulty observation and inaccurate record; or it may be in the improper grouping of the facts.

A few cases will present themselves of unusual or remarkable character; of such the history should be recorded in diffuse and elaborate detail. Such misnomers are not classifiable, and hence, are of no aid to the statistician; but they are important to the medical man, since they teach him the weighty lesson that new problems in pathology may arise at any hour, which will require new and unused principles for their satisfactory solution. In such cases the physician will proceed most wisely, if he follow the precept of Celsus, to compare such anomalous disease with other known forms, and to adopt for its management the treatment proper for the one to which it conforms nearest in character.

The purpose which has inspired the erection of Lane Hospital is two-fold in character; one great object is to furnish the medical student the opportunity of pursuing his studies to the greatest possible advantage, and of fully fitting himself for his future vocation. It is intended that he see medical and surgical art practised with that excellence, which will serve him as future model for guidance and imitation. A second object is, that the sick who seek this retreat for alleviation of their sufferings, will here find the best of skill and service, which can be planned by thoughtful intellect, and inspired by earnest sympathy. If, as has been stated, superiority of work will be promoted by the fact that the act of each physician and surgeon will pass into unmistakable and lasting record, so much more will it be insured by the presence of a medical class, which transcending the Argus of Juno is both many-eyed and many-eared in its guardian service. With such provisions and precautions, one finds a ready explanation of the fact, which has been observed, that the mortality of hospitals, which are under the charge of collegiate medical service, is less than that which is not supervised by such management.



If thoughtful care, vigilant attention, and trained skill be needed for the cure of the sick man, they are not all, and they will be sadly defective if they are not reinforced by another great quality—sympathy. Sympathy, like the quality Mercy, “is twice blessed: it blesses him that gives and him that takes.” Sympathy is planted in every human breast, and like every natural virtue, it may grow and become the prominent characteristic of the individual; or it may be dwarfed, and in certain conditions this precious quality may be almost or quite extinguished. These conditions, I have observed, are constant contact with suffering, and is often best seen in the medical attendant, either physician or nurse, who has become exhausted from long continued and anxious work; in fact, unfitted for duty. I often recall what was said to me once by a lady, who for months was overburdened and worn by attention to an invalid parent: “It is my daily prayer that I may not become impatient and falter in my duty to my mother.” Sympathetic care goes far in the cure of a patient. A harsh word, a petulant answer, or a frown in reply to some question or request of the patient, cuts more keenly than the surgeon’s knife; and such petulance and impatience may fatally reinforce a lingering disease.

Briefly summed up, then, the cardinal qualities necessary for the successful management of our hospital, are good heads, good hearts, and willing hands; a determination on the part of each attendant to do superior work, and a fixed resolve to live and labor in harmony with his fellow workmen. All thus doing their duty, the work done will represent a picture, in which is portrayed a legion of busy laborers bearing a standard, inscribed with the words: *Self-sacrifice and Humanity*; and such a picture will realize the donor’s hope, chiseled in marble at the threshold of this edifice, that the Healing Art may here be given an opportunity for the exercise of its humane skill, and that suffering Humanity may here find refuge and relief from its afflictions.









